

April 2010



Join us on our 2010 Hanukkah
Mercy Mission to Israel!

Shalom in our Resurrected Messiah!

THREE DAYS to Resurrection

The Lord has recently impressed upon us the significance of 3 DAYS in the Holy Scriptures, beginning with the cornerstone of our Messianic faith—Yeshua's resurrection from the dead—which we recently celebrated during the Feast of Unleavened Bread at "Firstfruits." Yeshua, as the "firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep" (1 Corinthians 15:20), was raised from the dead after 3 DAYS. The number 3, and 3 DAYS, in particular, speak of divine completeness and perfect testimony in the Bible.

The concept of a 3 DAY resurrection did not originate in the *B'rit Hadasha*, the New Covenant. In Genesis 22:4, Abraham's son, Isaac, was given back to him (symbolically resurrected from the dead) on the THIRD DAY. In Genesis 40:12, we read about Pharaoh's chief butler's position being restored to him after 3 DAYS. In his case, he was "resurrected" from prison to palace. Next we see Joseph, Jacob's son who had been thrown into a pit by his brothers and left for dead, being "resurrected" in Egypt before their very eyes. Before revealing himself to his astonished brethren, Joseph put them all in prison for 3 DAYS. Then, he said to them on the THIRD DAY, *"Do this and live, for I fear God..."* (Genesis 42:18). (He was referring to their bringing their youngest brother back with them.)

Following the Exodus from Egypt, the Israelites went out into the Wilderness of Shur. The Torah tells us that they went 3 DAYS into the wilderness and found no water. Water, especially in the Middle East, symbolizes **life**. The Lord gave His people Israel a resurrection experience at Marah. When they arrived there, they could not drink the water for it was bitter, hence its name "*marah*" meaning bitter, similar to the "*maror*" at the Passover seder. The people complained; Moses cried out to the Lord. God was merciful and showed Moses a tree which he cast into the waters, making the water sweet and potable: another type of 3 DAY resurrection.

In 2 Kings 20:1, we read that King Hezekiah was sick and near death. Isaiah the prophet was sent by the Lord to say to Hezekiah: *"...Set your house in order, for you shall die, and not live."* Hezekiah prayed and wept, and God heard his supplication. He sent Isaiah back to Hezekiah with the message: *"...surely I will heal you. On the THIRD DAY you shall go up to the house of the Lord. And I will add to your days fifteen years..."* (2 Kings 20:5-6). 3 DAYS, then resurrection life for a dying man.

There is a fascinating verse in the prophet Hosea that speaks of 3 DAYS to resurrection. It is a call for the children of Israel to repent and return to their God: *"Come, and let us return to the Lord; for He has torn, but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will bind us up. After two days He will revive us; on the THIRD DAY He will raise us up, that we may live in His sight"* (Hosea 6:1-2).

It is interesting to note that the last mention of 3 DAYS in the *Tanach*, the Old Covenant Scriptures, is found in the Book of Jonah, *"Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish THREE DAYS and three nights"* (Jonah 1:17). We know that after that, Jonah was "resurrected" as He cried to the Lord, and the fish vomited Jonah onto dry land.

The first mention of 3 DAYS in the *B'rit Hadasha* refers to Yeshua's resurrection from the dead and connects it with Jonah: "...An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was THREE DAYS and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be THREE DAYS and three nights in the heart of the earth" (Matthew 12:39-40). The phrase 3 DAYS in the New Covenant is usually connected with Messiah's resurrection. Yeshua Himself said that after 3 DAYS He would rise (Mark 8:31), and compared His bodily resurrection to the destruction and resurrection of the Temple. (John 2:19-22)

THREE DAYS to Victory

The phrases THREE DAYS or THE THIRD DAY are not only associated with resurrection in the Holy Scriptures, but also with other aspects of VICTORY. Here are some examples:

- God came down on Mount Sinai to give the Torah to Israel on the THIRD DAY. (Exodus 19:10-16)
- Joshua commanded his officers to prepare God's people for within THREE DAYS they would cross the Jordan to go in and possess the land which God promised them. (Joshua 1:10-11)
- The spies sent out by Joshua, who were saved by Rahab, successfully hid in the mountains THREE DAYS until their pursuers returned. (Joshua 2:22)
- All Israel, of one mind to make David King, stayed with him for THREE DAYS, eating and drinking—for there was joy in Israel. (1 Chronicles 12:38-40)
- Ezra and those who came with him from Babylon camped by the river *Ahava* for THREE DAYS. They fasted, sought God's direction, and He answered their prayer. (Ezra 8:2-23)
- Finally, we are all familiar with the victory over Haman, the fierce enemy of the Jewish people, following the THREE DAY FAST proclaimed by Queen Esther. (Esther 4:15-17)

We are believing that the Lord has a resurrection or a victory after 3 DAYS for YOU this month!

THREE DAYS in April, 2010

The calendar shows us there are THREE SPECIAL DAYS this month: *YOM HA'SHO'AH*, *YOM HAZIKKARON*, and *YOM HA'ATZMA'UT*. *Yom* is the Hebrew word for day. *Yomim*, is the plural, pronounced yo-MEEM. These THREE DAYS are actually tied together in the hearts and minds of the Jewish people. *Yom Ha'Sho'ah*, also known as Holocaust Remembrance Day is observed on April 11, 2010. It is followed by *Yom HaZikkaron*, also known as Memorial Day, on April 19, 2010. The following day is *Yom Ha'atzma'ut*, or Independence Day, April 20, 2010.

These THREE DAYS show a pattern in the life of God's people: death, remembering, and celebration of victory. This pattern, although a sad one, also happens to be a very godly one. Our God, as revealed in His Word, begins in darkness and brings us into light. He did it at creation, as we see the Jewish day beginning in the evening. The Holocaust, perhaps the darkest moment in Jewish history, preceded the establishment of the modern State of Israel. Those of us who have met the Jewish Messiah, Yeshua, have been brought out of darkness into His marvelous light. (1 Peter 2:9)

Yom Ha'Sho'ah

In the English speaking world, *Yom Ha'Sho'ah* is called Holocaust Remembrance Day. The word holocaust comes from the Greek *holokaustos* and is related to the *olah* or burnt offering which is first seen in the Torah when Noah made an offering to the Lord after leaving the ark. (Genesis 8:20) The burnt offering implies both a sacrifice going up in smoke, and the idea of ascending.

Our friend and Hebrew scholar, Dr. Danny Ben-Gigi, and the famous scholar Eli Wiesel, both object to the use of the word "holocaust" since the *olah* (holocaust) sacrifice ordained by God in

the Torah, was a desired sacrifice, **pleasing** to God. To use the same word to describe the horrific suffering of the *Sho'ah* is offensive to them. Nevertheless, the word "holocaust" has become the accepted term in the English-speaking world. The word used in Hebrew, *Sho'ah*, means **a great disaster, an incomprehensible horror**. (We will use the Hebrew word in the rest of this letter.)

The *Sho'ah* was a resolute campaign for the total extermination of the Jewish people carried out by Nazi Germany in the years 1939–1945. As a result, 6,000,000 Jews (one-third of the Jews in the world at that time and about 90% of the Jews of Europe) were exterminated. Although the events of the *Sho'ah* are well documented from German records, there are still many today, especially in Arab nations, who flatly deny that there ever was a *Sho'ah*!

It is important that we understand the THREE STAGES of the *Sho'ah* to help prevent it from ever happening again, especially TODAY as anti-Semitism is once again creeping across the face of the earth. Stage one: Persecution. This happened in Germany from 1933–1939. Jewish people, in general, were vilified, lied about, and portrayed as sub-human. It is happening again, but Satan is using the Arab world instead of the Germans. "A sermon calling for the genocide of Jews was broadcast on January 29, 2010 by PA TV, which is under the control of PA Chairman Mahmoud Abbas. 'The Jews are the enemies of Allah and of His Messenger. They are the enemies of humanity in general and of Palestinians in particular. The Prophet says, You shall fight the Jews and kill them. This land will be liberated only by means of Jihad.' " [Palestinian Media Watch]

Once lies are believed, people act on them. In the 1930's in Germany, the Jewish people began to experience beatings, robberies and the loss of businesses. In Israel today, there are suicide bombers and missiles targeting Jewish civilians and cities. Britain in 2010 has become a hotbed for radical anti-Israel expression. A one-state solution is blindly advocated while the media and public opinion totally ignore terror attacks on Israeli citizens. Hamas is allowed to promote anti-Zionism freely. If you live in Europe today, being Pro-American or Pro-Israel makes you an "endangered species," in the words of Geert Wilders of the Netherlands Party for Freedom. Last month in Canada, an anti-Israel program was permitted at York University, while a Pro-Israel program was not.

Stage two: Deportation. Beginning in the fall of 1939 with the German invasion of Poland, two million Polish Jews began to be expelled from their homes and crammed into specially created ghettos where they suffered extreme hardship. When the Germans invaded Russia two years later, three million more Jews came under German domination.

The Jewish people in Israel today have returned to the land of their forefathers from all over the world, in fulfillment of Bible prophecy. They say, "*Am Yisrael Chai*," "The People of Israel Live," and have no intention of letting anyone uproot them again. Deportation, however, is not the agenda of those who follow Islam as their ideology. As Mr. Wilders expressed in a recent speech given in the U.S., to Islam the whole of Israel is occupied territory. Tel Aviv and Haifa are seen as settlements, as well as Judea and Samaria. Radical Islam calls for all Jews to be expelled from all of Israel.

Stage three: Annihilation. This last stage of the *Sho'ah*, also known as the "Final Solution," began in late 1941 with the building of **Dachau**, the first of many death camps, where thousands of Jewish people were gassed to death on a daily basis. Could it happen again? Yes. It could, and we need to do whatever we can to prevent it!

First of all, we need to counteract lies. Be aware that "multiculturalism" is not a good thing. This is a concept expressed by Muslim advocacy groups who are pushing for the elimination of references to "Judeo-Christian" when describing American heritage. They want "Judeo-Christian-Islamic" to replace that phrase. But the American values of freedom, democracy, equality, gender equity, freedom of thought, the right to free expression, and secularism are not present in a single Islamic state. This agenda is extremely dangerous. Things were already happening seven years ago, when the

public schools in New York City were ordered to set aside a room for Muslim children to pray during Ramadan. Christians, however, could not pray in school during Christmas nor Jews during Hanukkah. Not even the ACLU protested.

In October 2002, seminars explaining how Muslims discovered America were held in major cities and mosques all over the U.S. Last month, PA Chairman Mahmoud Abbas warned of a "holy war" over Rachel's Tomb in Bethlehem, claiming it as a 1,000-year-old mosque, instead of a Jewish holy site which existed thousands of years before Islam began. The campaign also continues to deny the existence of any Jewish history at the Temple Mount site in Jerusalem. (Read your Bible.)

Remember Hitler's basic tactic: If you tell a big enough lie often enough, people will assume it is true. Speaking at Auschwitz earlier this year, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said, "We will never forget. We will not allow the Holocaust deniers or those who desecrate Jewish graves and signs to erase or distort our memory." The Prime Minister also warned that though the Nazi Amalek was almost entirely a ghost of the past, a new Amalek is appearing and once again threatening to annihilate the Jews. He also said, "We will not allow it...We will never forget and always stand guard."

All true believers in the Jewish Messiah, Yeshua, should follow the example of King Christian (love his name!) of Denmark, who led his entire country in resisting the Nazis. Their heroic action to warn and hide Jewish citizens resulted in only 500 of 8,000 Jews being caught by the Nazis and sent to concentration camps. The Danes then protested continually, and a year and a half after the Jews were taken, almost all Danish Jews were returned. Huge crowds turned out to welcome them home.

Do not let the generations to come forget the *Sho'ah*. Stand by Israel and the Jewish people. This is the will of God. (Genesis 12:3)

Yom HaZikaron & Yom Ha'atzma'ut

Israel remembers. Sirens help them do that. One is sounded for two minutes throughout the State of Israel at eight o'clock on *Yom Ha'Sho'ah* morning. Everything comes to an immediate halt. Another is sounded on *Yom HaZikaron*, as the nation stops to honor all those who died in the War of Independence and in subsequent wars. We have been there when the siren sounded. It was an emotionally moving moment. Memorial Day is a solemn time for most Israelis since almost every Israeli has lost someone in one of the wars.

As the sun sets, *Yom HaZikaron* ends and *Yom Ha'atzma'ut* begins. The entire mood of the country changes. From death in the *Sho'ah*, and more death in the Wars of Independence, the State of Israel emerged—a source of great joy. The holiday falls on the fifth day of the Hebrew month of *Iyyar*, the day on which modern Israel became an independent state. It was May 14, 1948 on the secular calendar. This year it is April 20, 2010. The re-birth of the Jewish State, along with the re-birth of the Hebrew language are both a type of resurrection from the dead. After nearly 1,900 years of dispersion, the Jewish people were regathered to the homeland promised to them by God.

Yom Ha'atzma'ut is a holiday rooted in 3,500 years of history since it celebrates the fulfillment of one of the world's oldest recorded promises: "*And the Lord said to Abram, ...'Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are—northward, southward, eastward, and westward; for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever'*" (Genesis 13:14-15). (See also Psalm 105:8-11.)

Israel manages to celebrate the birthday of her nation, in spite of constant pressure to give up her land, daily suicide bombing attempts, lies spread about her among the nations, and missiles raining down upon her cities. Israel is truly a modern miracle—a miracle of God. Let's pray for Israel, the USA, the world, and the return of Messiah THREE TIMES A DAY!!!

Pray for the truth to set us all free! Love,

Neil & Jamie